

## REMARKS

### *The Pending Claims*

Claim 1 and 9 have been amended, and claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Thus, claims 1-19 currently are pending in the application.

### *Summary of the Office Action*

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,666,475 (Kippschull) (hereinafter “the Kippschull ‘475 patent”).

### *Discussion of the Anticipation Rejection*

As noted above, the Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the Kippschull ‘475 patent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

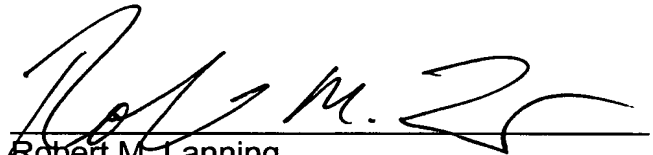
First, Applicants respectfully note that the Kippschull ‘475 patent cannot properly be relied upon to reject the pending claims under Section 102(b). In particular, the Kippschull ‘475 patent issued on December 23, 2003, approximately five months *after* the present application was filed. Thus, the Kippschull ‘475 patent was not patented or printed “more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent” and, therefore, cannot properly be used to reject the pending claims under Section 102(b).

Second, the Kippschull ‘475 patent does not appear to teach or suggest an airbag in which the anterior and posterior portions of a second panel are not coextensive with the anterior and posterior portions of a first panel. Indeed, the portion of the Kippschull ‘475 patent cited in the Office Action states that “the outer dimensions of the fabric layers 58 and the intermediate fabric strip 60 essentially correspond to the outer dimensions of the fabric layer 56” (the Kippschull ‘475 patent at col. 7, lines 62-64). Furthermore, Figs. 9A-C of the Kippschull ‘475 patent depict the fabric layers 58 of the bag as being coextensive with the ends of the fabric layer 56. Thus, the Kippschull ‘475 patent does not appear to disclose the subject matter defined by the pending claims, and, accordingly, the invention defined by the pending claims cannot properly be considered anticipated by or obvious over the Kippschull ‘475 patent.

*Conclusion*

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered in proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Lanning", written over a horizontal line.

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